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FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

*Official Records*

GENERAL COMMITTEE
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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. INSANALLY
(President of the General Assembly)

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ORGANIZATION OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/BUR/48/1 and Add.1; A/48/416)

Section I. Introduction

1. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII of its rules of procedure. It also took note of paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, and of the letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences contained in document A/48/416.

Section II. Organization of the session

Paragraph 6 (General Committee)

2. The Committee took note of paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 7 to 10 (Rationalization of work)

3. The Committee took note of paragraphs 7, 8 and 10, and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 11 (Closing date of the session)

4. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Assembly should recess no later than 21 December 1993 and close on 19 September 1994, and also that all the Main Committees should start their work as soon as possible and make every effort to complete their work by 3 December 1993.

Paragraphs 12 to 14 (Schedule of meetings)

5. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees. The Committee also decided to draw the Assembly's attention to the fact that services would not be available beyond 6 p.m. for weekday meetings of the Assembly (plenary meetings and Main Committees) as well as for meetings on weekends. The Committee also decided to recommend that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive the quorum requirements for plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees.

6. The CHAIRMAN strongly endorsed the suggestion that each delegation should designate someone to be present at the scheduled meeting time.

7. The Committee further decided to recommend that delegations should be reminded of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.

Paragraphs 15 to 17 (General debate)

8. The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

9. The CHAIRMAN urged representatives, in view of the large number of delegations already inscribed on the list of speakers for the general debate in the General Assembly, to speak in the order in which they were listed. Those unable to speak at the scheduled time would be put at the end of the list for the same day.

10. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to decisions taken by the Assembly at previous sessions, prohibiting the practice of expressing of congratulations inside the Assembly Hall itself. In that connection, the Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly that speakers in the general debate should be asked to exit the Assembly Hall through room GA-200, located behind the podium, before returning to their seats.

Paragraphs 18 to 20 (Explanations of vote, right of reply, points of order and length of statements)

11. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401 and to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto, for appropriate action to be taken by the Assembly in plenary meeting and by the Main Committees. It further decided to recommend to the Assembly that points of order should be limited to five minutes.

Paragraphs 21 and 22 (Records of meetings)

12. The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and, in connection with paragraph 22, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the practice of not reproducing in extenso statements made in a Main Committee should be maintained for the forty-eighth session.

Paragraph 24 (Concluding statements)

13. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the need for full implementation of paragraph 17 of General Assembly decision 34/401.

Paragraphs 25 to 28 (Resolutions)

14. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, and to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to its resolution 45/45. The Committee further decided to recommend to the Assembly that it should exercise maximum restraint in making requests or proposals that might incur additional expenditure for the Organization.

Paragraphs 29 to 31 (Documentation)

15. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401. The Committee also decided to take note of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 30 and 31 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

16. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America), supported by Mr. MERIMEE (France), Mr. GOZELIK (Russian Federation), Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) and Mr. NYAKYI (United Republic of Tanzania), said that his delegation did not necessarily agree with the contents of paragraph 31 of the Secretary-General's memorandum. He drew attention to the conclusions contained in the letter dated 20 September 1993 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences (A/48/416), in which that Committee "considered the limitation of distribution to missions of only two copies of official documents per mission too restrictive". The restrictions contained in paragraph 31 came perilously close to impairing the ability of delegations to conduct the vital work of the General Assembly.

17. Mrs. FLORES (Uruguay) and Mr. MARTINI HERRERA (Guatemala) supported the statements made by previous speakers and expressed concern at the decision to modify the practice of simultaneous distribution of documents, which would hamper the work of a large number of Spanish-speaking delegations.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Colombia had asked to participate in the discussion of paragraph 31 of the Secretary-General's memorandum. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

19. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Jaramillo (Colombia) took a place at the Committee table.

20. Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia) said that he strongly agreed with the two previous speakers.

21. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that his delegation could not accept the discriminatory treatment proposed in paragraph 31 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

22. Mr. HADID (Algeria) and Mr. MONGBE (Benin) supported the statements made by previous speakers and also expressed concern at the restrictions placed on meetings of regional groups in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's memorandum. It was difficult to imagine how the General Assembly would be able to function if regional groups, which often did much to facilitate the Assembly's work, were not permitted to meet.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the widespread concern that had been expressed with regard to paragraphs 9 and 31 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, he would consult with the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in order to find a solution to the problem.

24. Mr. Jaramillo (Colombia) withdrew.

Paragraphs 32 to 35 (Questions related to the programme budget)

25. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in paragraphs 32 and 33 and the observations contained in paragraphs 34 and 35 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 36 and 37 (Observances and commemorative meetings)

26. Mr. MARTINI HERRERA (Guatemala) said that the recommendation contained in paragraph 36 of the Secretary-General's memorandum would limit the ability of many delegations to participate in the work of the General Assembly and should therefore be implemented on a case-by-case basis.

27. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that paragraph 36 allowed for the necessary flexibility in the implementation of the recommendation.

28. The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 38 and 39 (Special conferences)

29. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 38 and 39 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 39 (a) (Meetings of subsidiary organs) (A/BUR/48/1/Add.1)

30. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a letter dated 20 September 1993 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the General Assembly (A/48/417) informing him that the Committee had recommended, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, that a number of subsidiary organs should be authorized to meet during the forty-eighth session.

31. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should authorize the subsidiary organs of the Assembly referred to in document A/BUR/48/1/Add.1 to meet during the forty-eighth session.

Section III. Observations and proposals on the organization of future sessions of the General Assembly

Paragraphs 40 to 42

32. The Committee took note of paragraphs 40 and 41 and endorsed the suggestion contained in paragraph 42.

Section IV. Adoption of the agenda

33. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure, the Committee would not consider the substance of any item except in so far as it bore on the question of whether or not to recommend the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

34. He also drew the Committee's attention to the suggestions in paragraph 44 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, and in particular the suggestion that the agenda of the General Assembly should be simplified by grouping or merging, to the extent possible, related items, and, where it was appropriate for the discussion of a particular item, by setting an interval of more than a year between discussions of it.

35. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should direct its Main Committees to review their agenda with a view to streamlining their programme of work as suggested in paragraph 44 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Inclusion of items

Items 1 to 6

36. The CHAIRMAN said that items 1 to 6 had already been dealt with; he would therefore take it that there were no comments on their inclusion in the agenda.

Items 7 to 24

37. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 7 to 24 in the agenda.

Item 25

38. Mr. MERIMEE (France) expressed regret that the General Committee must once again consider the inclusion of the agenda item relating to Mayotte. The question of Mayotte was an internal one and was regularly reviewed by the French and Comorian authorities; any discussion thereof by the General Assembly would constitute a violation of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations.

39. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 25 in the agenda.

Items 26 to 37

40. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 26 to 37 in the agenda.

Item 38

41. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a letter from the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid dated 21 September 1993 (A/48/419) informing him of the Special Committee's request that the wording of item 38 of the provisional agenda be changed to "Elimination of apartheid and establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa".

42. The Committee decided to recommend that the wording of item 38 should be changed to "Elimination of apartheid and establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa" and that the item should be included in the agenda.

Items 39 and 40

43. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 39 and 40 in the agenda.

Item 41

44. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Afghanistan had asked to participate in the discussion of item 41. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

45. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ghafoorzai (Afghanistan) took a place at the Committee table.

46. Mr. GHAFOORZAI (Afghanistan) said that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan had addressed a letter to the Secretary-General requesting that the title of agenda item 41 should be amended to read "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan". The Minister for Foreign Affairs had also requested that, given the political aspects of the close link between economic reconstruction in Afghanistan and peace and security in that country, the item should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.

47. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would consider the allocation of items at a later stage.

48. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 41 in the agenda.

49. Mr. Ghafoorzai (Afghanistan) withdrew.

Items 42 to 51

50. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 42 to 51 in the agenda.

Item 52

51. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Afghanistan had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

52. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ghafoorzai (Afghanistan) took a place at the Committee table.

53. Mr. GHAFOORZAI (Afghanistan) said that the Government of Afghanistan had requested the Secretary-General to retain item 52 on the agenda of the forty-eighth session without any discussion of the subject.

54. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the last meeting of the forty-seventh session, held on 20 September 1993, the General Assembly had decided to include the item in the draft agenda of the forty-eighth session.

55. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 52 in the agenda.

56. Mr. Ghafoorzai (Afghanistan) withdrew.

Items 53 to 88

57. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 53 to 88 in the agenda.

Item 89

58. Mr. OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso), supported by Mr. von WAGNER (Germany), said that, after consultation with the representatives of France and Madagascar, his delegation wished to recommend that consideration of item 89, the question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India, should be deferred until the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to any arrangements the two countries might arrive at in that regard.

59. The Committee decided to recommend that consideration of the item should be deferred to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly and included in the provisional agenda of that session.

Items 90 to 120

60. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 90 to 120 in the agenda.

Item 121

61. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) drew attention to the Secretary-General's progress report on the question of East Timor (A/48/418), in which he expressed the view that the talks between the Governments of Portugal and Indonesia were contributing to greater understanding and to the adoption of confidence-building measures which gave hope of substantial progress towards a solution to that question.

62. In view of the fact that a new round of talks was scheduled to begin in May 1994 in Geneva, his delegation proposed that the General Committee should recommend to the General Assembly a deferment of item 121 until its forty-ninth session.

63. Mr. WOOD (United Kingdom), supporting the proposal of the delegation of Egypt, said that the current negotiations being held under the auspices of the Secretary-General gave hope that an internationally acceptable solution to the problem would be found through dialogue.

64. The Committee decided to recommend that consideration of item 121 should be deferred to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly and included in the provisional agenda of that session.

Items 122 to 151

65. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 122 to 151 in the agenda.

Item 152

66. Mr. MARKER (Pakistan) said that item 152 concerning observer status for the Economic Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly had been proposed by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Economic Cooperation Organization had been established to promote technical, economic and cultural cooperation among its members and had an important role to play in strengthening regional security and thereby promoting the aims of the United Nations in the region. His delegation therefore wished to propose that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 152 in the agenda.

67. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 152 in the agenda.

Item 153

68. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Papua New Guinea had asked to participate in the discussion of item 153 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

69. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Lohia (Papua New Guinea) took a place at the Committee table.

70. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) referred to a request contained in document A/48/142 for the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly entitled "United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation". The international community placed a high value on democratic practices, human rights and sustainable development, but translating such practices into economic reality was not possible in many countries. In many parts of the third world, there was little access to economic opportunity, resulting in widespread poverty. The purpose of the item was to identify the problems in gaining access to economic opportunity and to provide practical solutions.

71. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 153 in the agenda.

72. Mr. Lohia (Papua New Guinea) withdrew.

Item 154

73. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of New Zealand had asked to participate in the discussion of item 154 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

74. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. McKinnon (New Zealand) took a place at the Committee table.

75. Mr. McKINNON (New Zealand) said that his delegation was proposing the inclusion of an item entitled "Question of responsibility for attacks on United Nations and associated personnel and measures to ensure that those responsible for such attacks are brought to justice" in document A/48/144 because of the sharp increase in the number of casualties suffered in United Nations peace-keeping operations. None of the persons responsible for such attacks had yet been brought to justice anywhere in the world, and the international community should not tolerate the situation. The United Nations should have at its disposal the means to hold personally responsible those who attacked its personnel. The legal issues were unclear and should be addressed by the General Assembly.

76. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 154 in the agenda.

77. Mr. McKinnon (New Zealand) withdrew.

Item 155

78. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 155 had been requested in document A/48/145.

79. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 155 in the agenda.

Item 156

80. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 156 had been proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/48/146.

81. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 156 in the agenda.

Item 157

82. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 157, entitled "Effective realization of the right of self-determination through autonomy" had been proposed by Liechtenstein in document A/48/147.

83. Mr. MARKER (Pakistan) said that his delegation was in general agreement with the proposed item but would prefer the deletion of the words "through autonomy" in the title, because autonomy was only one of the various ways in which the right to self-determination could be exercised. The phrase "without prejudice to the exercise of this right by peoples under foreign and colonial occupation and alien domination" might be added to the title, ensuring a comprehensive treatment of the issue. Its addition should pose no problem since the right of self-determination was universally recognized and figured in many consensus resolutions of the General Assembly.

84. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) said that his delegation was of the view that the item had implications for the role of the United Nations in international affairs. The principle of autonomy for administrative units was laudable, but the suggestion that the United Nations should consider the extent of the autonomy to be enjoyed by the constituent parts of a Member State impinged on Article 27 of the Charter. Furthermore, the matter was being addressed in the Third and Fourth Committees.

85. Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka) said that the concept of self-determination as enshrined in Article 1 of the United Nations Charter and both International Covenants on Human Rights was continuing to develop and was being monitored in many international forums. Furthermore, at its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly had taken a landmark decision on the rights of minorities. Therefore, ample opportunity already existed to examine the question under other items, such as item 109. The realization of the right to self-determination as described in document A/48/147 was best dealt with in internal negotiations. An open-ended interpretation of the concept could lead to fragmentation and should not lead, for instance, to interference by illegal armed groups with legitimate processes such as national elections.

86. Ms. FRITSCHE (Liechtenstein) said that her delegation could not accept the deletion of the words "through autonomy" as proposed by the representative of Pakistan. With regard to the additional phrase he had suggested, her delegation had made it clear that it saw the proposed approach as separate from decolonization, but the substantive concerns raised by the representative of Pakistan could be accommodated by including appropriate wording in the draft resolution.

87. Mr. GOZELIK (Russian Federation) said that his delegation agreed that the theme of the proposed item had merit. However, given the financial crisis the United Nations was facing, the General Assembly should seek to streamline its work and simplify the agenda by grouping or clustering items in accordance with resolution 45/45, paragraph 4. Since item 109 already dealt with the issue, it would be logical to include the proposed item as a sub-item for consideration by the Third Committee.

88. Mrs. FRECHETTE (Canada) said that her delegation supported the inclusion of the proposed item as a sub-item of item 109.

89. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) said that if the phrase suggested by the representative of Pakistan was included in a draft resolution, he hoped that the language of prior resolutions on self-determination would be used.

90. Mr. MARKER (Pakistan) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of the item.

91. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) pointed out that the right of self-determination applied to all peoples, not some. His delegation supported the proposal of the Russian Federation to include the item as a sub-item under agenda item 109.

92. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 157 as a sub-item under agenda item 109.

Item 158

93. Mr. MARTINI HERRERA (Guatemala), said that his delegation had joined with a number of others in proposing the inclusion in the agenda of an item entitled "Consideration of the exceptional situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the international context, based on the principle of universality and in accordance with the established model of parallel representation of divided countries at the United Nations". The study suggested in paragraph 6 of document A/48/191 and in paragraph 1 of the proposed draft resolution contained in its annex deserved the consideration of the General Assembly. in view of the fact that the question of Taiwan had long been a source of instability in the Asia and Pacific region.

94. The current atmosphere of openness and democratization favoured the enhanced effectiveness of the United Nations, and would allow it to examine the situation of the many millions of people who wished to be represented and to

(Mr. Martini Herrera, Guatemala)

participate actively in the life and institutions of the international community. In paragraphs 10 and 14 of his Report on the Work of the Organization (A/48/1) the Secretary-General referred to the need for the participation of the population in the development of a State and a profound renewed concept of the State. The purpose of the request for inclusion of that item was to study the situation in order to seek an equitable, rational and practical solution allowing a significant population to have full representation in the United Nations and to make their contribution to the promotion of economic, social and political development. The proposed study would reaffirm the fundamental principles of sovereign equality of all Member States and would emphasize the peaceful settlement of disputes, the non-use of force or the threat of force against the territorial integrity or the political independence of any State, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. An equitable solution could be found that would strengthen peace and harmonious coexistence.

95. Mr. LI Zhaoxing (China) said that his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda of the forty-eighth session. There was no legal basis for the request, which ran counter to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, the item constituted wanton interference in the internal affairs of a Member State. The sponsors' statements in the explanatory memorandum (document A/48/191, annex I), disregarded the historical facts and objective realities. The request to include the agenda item was also contrary to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), adopted in 1971, which had already decided the question of China's representation in the United Nations. That resolution, adopted by an overwhelming majority, unequivocally stated that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China was one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. The resolution had also been the basis for restoring the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and expelling from the United Nations and its relevant agencies the representatives of the Taiwan authorities who had usurped China's seat since 1949. It had settled, once and for all, the question of China's representation in the United Nations politically, legally and procedurally. The so-called Taiwan's return to the United Nations or its membership or participation in the Organization should not be considered.

96. Moreover, under Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, only sovereign States could apply for membership. It was well known that there was only one China in the world, namely, the People's Republic of China, and that Taiwan was an inalienable part of China and had been since ancient times. As a province of China, Taiwan had no right whatsoever to be a member of the United Nations. Any attempt to cite the "principle of universality" as justification for Taiwan's participation in the United Nations would set an abominable precedent of violating the Charter, infringing the sovereignty and interfering in the internal affairs of Member States.

(Mr. Li Zhaoxing, China)

97. In conclusion, the question of Taiwan was purely an internal affair of China. The Chinese Government was committed to its peaceful settlement and to the reunification of the Chinese nation. The Government of China would continue to uphold the principle of "one China" and firmly oppose any attempts to create "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" or "an independent Taiwan".

98. Mr. MARKER (Pakistan) said that his delegation also opposed the inclusion of the item and fully supported the Chinese statement. The language of the proposed item was misleading and reflected a blatant effort to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign Member State. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had categorically settled the issue and restored to the People's Republic of China the rightful seat it had been denied for so many years As Taiwan was a province of China and not a sovereign State, it was not eligible to apply for membership under Article 4 of the Charter or under the model of parallel representation.

99. Mr. PURSOO (Grenada) noted that the optimism of the post-cold-war era had been tempered by heightened conflict throughout the world. The United Nations should promote dialogue in order to deal with that situation more realistically. Grenada had relations with the Republic of China in Taiwan and could easily identify it's territory. It recognized the developments of democracy there and the Government of the Republic of China in Taiwan and respected the right of its 21 million people to speak for themselves. It was of increasing concern to many that the Republic of China in Taiwan, with its considerable industrial base and potential to play a role in international affairs, should be excluded from discussions on international conventions in such vital areas as human rights and the environment.

100. Mr. NYAKYI (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation, too, was opposed to the inclusion of the item. In 1971, the General Assembly had put an end to over 30 years of debate on the representation of China. The request contained in document A/48/191 marked the first time that the unity and territorial integrity of China and its sovereignty over Taiwan were being questioned. As long as Taiwan had been able to maintain the fiction that it represented China, it had affirmed the unity of China. When that fiction could no longer be sustained, it had invented yet another fiction - that it was a sovereign and independent State. The request violated the Charter of the United Nations which urged non-interference in the affairs of sovereign States, and of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI); it should be denied. The Government of the People's Republic of China was to be commended for acknowledging China's problems and for its commitment to resolving them. The international community should not aggravate the situation by encouraging the country's dismemberment.

101. Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation believed there was only one China and its capital was Beijing. The question of the reunification of China was a matter for the Chinese people to decide. His delegation welcomed the discussions being held between the People's Republic of China and representatives of Taiwan but did not believe reunification would be promoted by the proposals contained in document A/48/191. Furthermore, as yet there was no established model of parallel representation of divided countries. The Chinese situation bore only a superficial resemblance to the situation of the former

(Mr. Kalpage, Sri Lanka)

German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, or that of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which had reached a prior agreement between themselves on parallel representation. His delegation opposed the inclusion of the item.

102. Mr. KHARRAZI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation opposed the inclusion of item 158, as the question had already been settled in 1971 by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

103. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that his delegation had always supported General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which recognized the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations, and saw no reason to question it at that juncture. His delegation was opposed to the inclusion of item 158.

104. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said that the issue of China's representation to the United Nations had been permanently resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and his delegation was not in favour of including item 158. In the interest of rationalizing its work, the General Assembly should focus on real and vital issues, not on non-issues or matters that had already been settled.

105. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) warned against interference in the internal affairs of China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) was clear regarding the existence of one China and regarding Chinese representation at the United Nations. Surely, the General Assembly was not about to revoke that resolution. His delegation was opposed to the inclusion of item 158.

106. Mr. GOZELIK (Russian Federation) said that his delegation objected to the inclusion of the item. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China must be respected. The Russian position was based on the fact that there was only one China and that the representatives of the People's Republic of China, as the only legitimate representatives to the United Nations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), represented the whole of China.

107. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) said that his delegation recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only Government of China. That position had also been taken by the international community in adopting General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which India had supported. His delegation opposed any proposal that sought to undermine the resolution and it was opposed to the inclusion of item 158.

108. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Nicaragua had asked to participate in a discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

109. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Vilchez Asher (Nicaragua) took a place at the Committee table.

110. Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua) said that his delegation fully supported the Guatemalan and Grenadian statements. He noted that changes in recent years had led to the establishment of new States and entities which had joined the United Nations. The international community must seek not only to understand the sweeping changes taking place but it must also find ways and means of resolving situations that had originated during the cold war. The Organization, if it was to rise to new post-cold-war circumstances, must avoid any appearance of selectively applying the principles of the Charter.

111. Recognition by the United Nations of the rights of the people of the Republic of China in Taiwan would be consistent with the principles of non-selectivity, universality and the legal equality of States. In considering the exceptional situation, the General Assembly would be recognizing the fundamental rights of the 21 million inhabitants of Taiwan, a dynamic, progressive, peace-loving and hard-working member of the international community. In the light of the new international situation, it would not reflect credit on the United Nations if it failed to deal with a problem that had been pending for many years. The 21 million people residing in Taiwan fervently hoped that the Organization would recognize their right, just as it had recognized the rights of other peoples all over the world, to be represented at the United Nations and participate in its programmes and debates. The people and Government of the Republic of China in Taiwan fulfilled all the legal, political and other conditions for consideration by the General Assembly. In keeping with the lofty responsibilities of the United Nations in a new era, the General Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should include the item in its agenda.

112. Mr. KUKAN (Slovakia) said that his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of item 158. It believed that there was one China and that the issue of Chinese representation to the United Nations had been dealt with in the relevant General Assembly resolution.

113. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should not include item 158 in the agenda.

114. Mr. Vilchez Asher (Nicaragua) withdrew.

Items 159 and 160

115. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 159 and 160 in the agenda.

Item 161

116. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Panama had asked to participate in the discussion of item 161 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

117. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Arosemena (Panama) took a place at the Committee table.

118. Mr. AROSEMENA (Panama) noted that inclusion of the item had been requested by almost all the Latin American countries. The Latin American Parliament was composed of the parliaments of all the Latin American countries. It had been established in 1964 and enjoyed the status of international regional organization under the Lima Treaty of 1987, which was currently in force. Closer ties to the parliaments which shaped the international policy and adopted the budgets of the Latin American countries would greatly benefit the United Nations. His delegation, on behalf of the sponsors, requested inclusion of the item in the agenda.

119. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 161 in the agenda.

120. Mr. Arosemena (Panama) withdrew.

Item 162

121. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Sweden had asked to participate in the discussion of item 162 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

122. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Rydberg (Sweden) took a place at the Committee table.

123. Mr. RYDBERG (Sweden) said that, in exercise of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and on behalf of other Member States of the United Nations who were also participating States in the Conference, his delegation wished to request the inclusion of the item in the agenda. Although the request had not yet been distributed, its contents were identical to the request contained in the annex of document A/48/231. His delegation would address the substance of the issue at a later date. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to General Assembly resolution 47/10 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the memorandum of understanding signed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman-in-Office of CSCE, which had been circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

124. Mr. Rydberg (Sweden) withdrew.

Items 163 to 165

125. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 163 to 165 in the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.